The Rocking East Side
Mandy Okonek

The old Swedish bank building at 965 Payne Ave. is now home to a music venue. The basement has been converted to an all-ages music hot spot called The Treasury. It’s operated by non-profit Catalyst Music, the same folks who run the only other venue dedicated to underage artists and performers, The Garage in Burnsville. Average ticket prices are $12-15 making this an affordable entertainment option for Saint Paul’s young people.

Just for comparison, I recently purchased tickets for my daughter and me to see her favorite band Panic at the Disco at the Xcel Energy Center and I paid over $100 each for tickets on the balcony. Uff da!

Accoring to their website, The Treasury aims to empower youth by giving them their own spaces to perform and grow as musicians, in turn, building community. They are an alcohol-free venue and offer year-long in-person and virtual music classes for youth interested in the performing arts. When I worked in the music business, I had the opportunity to be a judge at a few all-teen battles of the bands at the Garage in Burnsville. Enmersed in a microcosm of youth culture, I was able to experience emerging talent in its rawest form. Pure creative expression. I’m beyond grateful I don’t have to drive to the suburbs to share this experience with my daughter.

Many of the upcoming artists performing at the Treasury this summer have songs on YouTube so you can get a feel for the bands before you buy tickets. My daughter and I are deciding who we will see for our first show, and I can’t wait to report back to the Forum with a full review.

To learn more about The Treasury or to inquire about booking please visit their website, catalymusic.org/the-treasury/. Looking for a fun night out with the young person in your life? Head to Payne Ave. Let’s support the future generation of Minnesota’s talented young musicians and welcome The Treasury to our East Side community.

Holiday Fireworks and Festivals
Greg Cooimini

Once again the city of Saint Paul will not be sponsoring any fireworks shows this Independence Day weekend but that doesn’t mean you and your family can’t see fireworks if you know when and where to look. Here are a few suggestions in the East Metro and surrounding area. All events are subject to change due to weather, COVID, supply chain issues and other random occurrences, so be sure to check before going to any of them.

St. Paul, CHS Field, downtown, Friday July 1, Saturday July 2 and Sunday July 3: Fireworks begin after the Saint Paul Saints – Omaha Storm Chasers games, usually between 9 and 10 p.m. July 1: Regular Friday Night Fireworks; July 2 and 3: “Fireworks Super Show.” Fireworks can be seen from various locations in and around the stadium downtown and of course inside the stadium with a paid game admission. No fireworks on July 4.

Maplewood, Hazelwood Park, 1663 County Road C, July 4: Fireworks at 10 p.m. at the conclusion of the Light It Up Maplewood festival that runs from 4-10 p.m. There will be food trucks, family games and activates, and music by Good for Gary.

Woodbury, M Health Fairview Sports Center, 4125 Radio Drive, July 4: Fireworks at 10 p.m. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with bounce houses in the Kids Zone and food trucks, including KCM EggRolls, B to Z, Snack Shack, State Fair Cookie Co., Go BBQ, Milk Mart Ice Cream and more! The Southern Express Band plays at 6, followed by Free Fallin’.

Roseville, Central Park, 2540 Lexington Avenue North, July 4: Fireworks at 10 p.m. at the conclusion of Roseville’s Party in the Park. The Party begins at 1 p.m. and includes carnival games, inflatable fun, and a multitude of food vendors, with musical entertainment provided by Songs of Hope, Sawyer’s Dream, the Roseville Big Band, and the Roseville Community Band.

Eagan, 1501 Central Parkway, July 4: Fireworks at 10 p.m. Eagan’s 4th Funfest begins at 10 a.m. with a parade, followed by the KidZone, Carnival, Royal Brain Freeze, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Car Show, and Bingo, with musical entertainment provided by Lipstick & Dynamite, Twin Cities Wedding DJs, and the 70’s Magic Sunshine Band.

Dayton’s Bluff, whenever and wherever: Of course there are no legal private fireworks displays allowed in St. Paul, but residents in Dayton’s Bluff can expect an extended Independence Day weekend of unauthorized aerial fireworks, at least based on previous years. Legal Disclaimer: The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum does not support any illegal fireworks displays but there is no law, yet, against enjoying them should they occur in your vicinity.

Donations Needed for Us to Print

Help Us Deliver to Your Door Again!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum staff is asking you to support our newspaper! Just a small donation can help us get our newspaper back to the printing press each month, so that you can read a hard copy! Your donation will go toward printing costs. We miss having our newspaper displayed in the businesses on 7th Street. We have found a new printer and are able to print for less each month.

We are so close to meeting our goal to print each month, and we know your donations would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper! We are also working toward enough donations for our mailing permit so that the post office can deliver our monthly newspaper right to your door again!

Own a business? Consider taking out an ad with us for a future issue.

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
This Monarch butterfly caterpillar grew from a little guy to almost full size in five days by eating some tasty Dayton’s Bluff milkweed leaves. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed plants because it is the only thing their caterpillars eat. Within two or three weeks this caterpillar will have transformed into a butterfly, and the cycle will be repeated several more times until the last Monarch flies off to Mexico in late summer.

Greg Cosimini

**Instagram**

@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

**Friends of Swede Hollow**

Friends of Swede Hollow watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meetings.

Our next meeting will be on July 19 starting at 6:30 p.m. at 668 Greenbrier Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend. Discussion will include National Night Out, Pickup Truck Opera, and other upcoming events. For more information, email karin@daytonsbullf.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

**Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting**

The Board is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales—join us at our next meeting on Friday, July 9 at 1:30 p.m.

If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbullf.org@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff Library.

**Twin Cities Mobile Market**

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into neighborhoods.

The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m.

**Need Groceries?**

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest. This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply! Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

**Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting**

The DBCC Board of Directors meet the third Monday of every month. The next meeting is July 19, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and are currently being held via Zoom. Visit daytonsbullf.org or call (651) 772-2075 for more information.

**Free Health and Human Services**

United Way 2-1-1 provides free and confidential health and human services information for people in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Connect with you resources and information you need: Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Child Care; Consumer Regulation; Financial Assistance Programs; Healthcare; Money Management; Transportation; Animal Services; Criminal Justice, Legal Services; Employment; Food and Housing/Shelter; Tax Organizations & Services; Utilities (includes phones); Mental Health. When calling 2-1-1 you will need to enter your ZIP code and then will hear a menu of services. Be patient, please. With COVID-19, lines are busy. You may be given options to waiting on the line.

**Free Summer Workshops**

Metro State University and Urban Roots are co-hosting a series of summer workshops on the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Events are free and open to the public. They will take place at GROW-IT Center at 445 Mar Vista Ave., Saint Paul. July’s topic will be Container Gardening. In receptacles of many kinds and August 10 will be Boulevards & Rain Gardens: Minimizing water use. Register at Eventbrite.com/s/urban-roots-metro-state-university-workshop-series-registration-337482247487. For questions email GROW-IT@metrostate.edu.

**Contest: Where in Dayton’s Bluff?**

Send your guess to daytonsbullf.org@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right. The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the winner(s) will be announced in the August edition of the Forum. We didn’t have anyone guess in June, write to us with your guess!
House Workforce Committee Approves Legislation to Invest in Minnesota Workers and Businesses

Minnesota House of Representatives

The House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee approved their bill compiling proposals from legislators and the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to invest in and improve the lives of Minnesota’s workers and businesses.

“Working Minnesotans are driving our state’s economic recovery, but far too many of them are left out of the benefits of a prospering Minnesota,” said Rep. Mohamud Noor (DFL - Minneapolis), chair of the committee. “We won’t have a truly strong economy until workers and businesses, especially those that have been historically marginalized, are able to achieve their full potential in our state. The solutions we put forward today will build a stronger, more inclusive economy for Minnesotans.”

The legislation contains $175.9 million in investments aimed at promoting economic development opportunities, particularly for communities that have largely been left out and underrepresented. The bill also provides substantial funding relief for small businesses that continue to struggle, including businesses in the northern part of the state that were directly harmed by the closure of the Canadian border.

“This bill provides historic investment into the economic development of our highly disinvested communities. For too long, many populations and locations in certain areas have been overlooked and not adequately funded and invested in. This must end now. We must start a new day,” said Rep. Jay Xiong (DFL - Saint Paul), vice chair of the committee. “We’re committed to economic growth and equal opportunity for all people. This includes initiatives to support minority-owned businesses, women entrepreneurs, Black developers who want to break into the development industry, and businesses along the Canadian border that are barely hanging on. There are parts of Minnesota’s economy that are doing extremely well and parts that are genuinely struggling. It is high time we equalize the playing field and ensure that everyone has the same chances to grow and succeed. With a $9.25 billion surplus, now is the time for the state to step up to the plate and give all Minnesotans a genuine chance to share in prosperity.

The bill’s most significant investments are dedicated to a $9.25 billion surplus of the new Spark Revolving Loan Program, and $35 million in small business recovery grants with amounts dedicated for businesses owned by veterans, women, or people of color. With the closing of the Canadian border, the businesses that rely on international travel have dealt with compounded difficulties, which is why $7.5 million has been appropriated to help establishments in the region.

Funds in the bill are also appropriated for redeveloping and revitalizing business communities. The legislation invests $5 million in DEED’s Main Street Revitalization Program, which provides grants to local units of government to help prepare blighted properties for development.

In order to support new entries to the workforce, the bill invests $470,000 into the Office of New Americans at DEED and establishes the Interdepartmental Coordinating Council on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. This council will advise the Office of New Americans and assist in their duties to connect employers with the immigrant and refugee community, and ensure that immigrants and refugees have equitable access to state services. An additional $1 million is appropriated for new American support in anticipation of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

The bill also invests $5 million in Women of Color Economic Opportunity, breaking the investment into three parts with $2 million for the Center for Economic Inclusion, $2 million for the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota, and $1 million for the Coalition of Asian Americans and Refugees. This investment is aimed at helping women of color gain access to state programs and opportunities.

Other significant investments in the bill include: $20 million to be split among the state’s 16 workforce development boards, $20 million for the Emerging Developer Fund, $5 million in youth tech training, $4 million in childcare grants, $1 million for the Minnesota Marketing Campaign, and $800 million for Enterprise Minnesota.

On May 19 Dayton’s Bluff was the recipient of some very large hail. I ran outside after the hailstorm and gathered up some of the largest hail, photographed it, and then stored it in my freezer. After a couple of days the novelty had worn off and I was about to toss the plastic cup full of hail. But then I noticed something. When the frozen mass of hail was removed from the cup and inverted, it sort of resembled a small tree.

One of my favorite things at my junior high cafeteria (except for cinnamon rolls) had to be:

Rice Krispie Bars: 1 (12 oz) bag butterscotch chips, 8 cups Rice Krispies, 1 cup peanut butter, 1 (9-12 oz) bag chocolate chips.

In a large bowl, microwave chips and chocolate chips. Press into 9 x 13 greased pan. Mix other ingredients together and press into the sides of the pan. Chill. Melt chocolate chips in microwave. Spread over chilled bars. Refrigerate.

-G. B. Leroy

Gregory J. of Dayton’s Bluff

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If asked what they know about honeybee swarms, many people might describe something like a scene from the 1978 horror film The Swarm, with crowds of terrified people running and screaming as they are engulfed in a huge black cloud of killer bees. Responsible beekeepers do their best to keep their bees from swarming. They add more hive boxes to reduce crowding, ensure adequate ventilation, and remove the queen cells as they appear. But honeybees are a potential new queen bee. Responsible beekeepers do their best to keep their bees from swarming. They add more hive boxes to reduce crowding, ensure adequate ventilation, and remove the queen cells as they appear. But honeybees are a potential new queen bee.

Swarming is the natural way honeybees form new colonies, and it usually happens when the hive gets too crowded. A honeybee queen can lay up to 3,000 eggs per day, so the population of the colony can increase quickly. When this happens the worker bees begin to build some very large brood cells along the bottom of the hive frames. These peanut-shaped cells are a good indication that a hive is getting ready to swarm. Any egg laid in one of these brood cells is a potential new queen bee.

When the bees are ready to swarm, all at once. A swarm is a genetically identical group of workers and drones flying around the queen. The swarm can consist of thousands of bees. It can fly for miles and often comes to rest in a tree or a building before moving on. Bees on the Bluff is on that swarm catchers list, and we got our first call in June of 2020. A guy in Burnsville named Nick had a swarm in his yard, about 10 feet up a tree. We drove out there with a hive setup, a ladder, and a big cardboard box. While Nick and his kids and their neighbors watched, I held the cardboard box below the cluster. Jeff shook the branch and eight pounds of honey bees dropped into the box. We poured the bees into the hive boxes, put the lid on, then chatted and answered questions for an hour while the rest of the bees followed the scent of their queen into the hive. Then we closed up the hive and brought our new bees home. It was a happy ending for everyone.

The Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association maintains a list of local beekeepers who will capture honeybee swarms. It’s a good opportunity for a beekeeper to increase the number of colonies in their apiary. A package of bees can cost as much as $200, so it’s worth the time and effort. Plus, it’s pretty fun. Bees on the Bluff is on that swarm catchers list, and we got our first call in June of 2020. A guy in Burnsville named Nick had a swarm in his yard, about 10 feet up a tree. We drove out there with a hive setup, a ladder, and a big cardboard box. While Nick and his kids and their neighbors watched, I held the cardboard box below the cluster. Jeff shook the branch and eight pounds of honey bees dropped into the box. We poured the bees into the hive boxes, put the lid on, then chatted and answered questions for an hour while the rest of the bees followed the scent of their queen into the hive. Then we closed up the hive and brought our new bees home. It was a happy ending for everyone.

The Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers association website is mnbeekeeappers.com. The number to call if you see a honeybee swarm is 651-446-7915.

Jeff Borden and Kathleen Hoffer have kept honeybees on St Paul’s East Side since 2013.

July Events Happening at Battle Creek and Dayton's Bluff Recreation Centers

July 7, 2-3 p.m., Free: Battle Creek Rec Center—Shadow Chalk Painting: For ages 6-10. Participants will create unique chalk designs by tracing shadows.

July 11-13, 6-7:30 p.m., $10: Battle Creek Rec Center—Volleyball Camp: For ages 7-10. Participants will work on their serving, passing, and hitting. Instructors include high school coaches and high school volleyball players. Each participant will receive a t-shirt. Bring a water bottle.

July 11-15, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., $10: Battle Creek Rec Center—Sunshine Storytime for 4+ year-olds. The curriculum will thematically combine a children’s nature book centered on BIPOC characters, outdoor building skills, environment stewardship, snacks, guest speakers, and service learning. Participants will receive a t-shirt. To qualify for a t-shirt, participants must enroll by July 1.

July 13, 5:30-7 p.m., $5: Battle Creek Rec Center—Rock Painting: For ages 8-14. Participants will paint unique art on rocks.

July 14-28, 4-5 p.m., Free: Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center—Cupcake Decorating: For ages 8-14. Learn different easy techniques to decorating cupcakes. Bring cupcakes home with you!

July 15, noon-6 p.m., Free: Battle Creek and Dayton’s Bluff Rec Centers—Amazing Race: For ages 7-13. Join us for the 2022 Amazing Race: Gamer’s Gauntlet! Compete on a team with fellow rec center participants. Video games are brought to life in this race against other rec centers. Be the first team to complete all of the challenges and solve all of the clues and ultimately finish the race. Lunch and dinner are provided. Participants all receive a team t-shirt. Please note: This race takes place outside and is for all skill levels. We highly recommend that you send a water bottle with your child and have them wear clothing they can run around in, including sneakers or tennis shoes. Youth participants will have the option to swim after the race. We encourage any youth who may want to swim to bring a towel and swim suit.

July 18-20, 6-7:30 p.m., $10: Battle Creek Rec Center—Summer Basketball Camp: For ages 6-9. This camp the participants will work on their dribbling, passing, shooting and court sense. Participants will receive a t-shirt.

July 18-21, 1-3:30 p.m., Free: Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center—Soccer Camp: For ages 4-12. The Snehew Foundation along with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is offering free soccer clinics for youth ages 5-12 yrs. Topics covered include basic skill training, speed and agility development, attacking, defending, small-sided games and tactics. Participants should bring appropriate footwear, shin guards, and water/sports drink.

July 25, 5-7:30 p.m., Free: Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center—Paint Night for Teens: For ages 12-18. Let the artist come out in you! Teens will create a masterpiece on canvas and be able to take it home. Visit stpaul.gov/facilities/battle-creek-recreation-center for the full list of events. You can also choose Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center when searching.
Juliette and died on the streets of St. Paul. Located at 26 E. Exchange Street.

Join Sister Celeste on this historic walking tour as she goes “off-campus” to explore tales that both enlighten and put the fear of God in her listeners! A tour that explores

July Events Happening in St. Paul

July 1, 9-11 a.m.: Children’s Activities, Free: Starting Friday morning, there will be activities for kids and families — drawing and coloring, button making, Storytelling, bingo, and the Latvian ballot-like game Novuss (with instructors), and more! Activities take place at 11 E Kellogg Blvd.

July 1, 9-11:30 a.m.: Can Can Circusland: With pop up performances all night long and throughout the venue, the entertainment never ends! Catch a drag queen on the golf course, or enjoy some burlesque, aerialists, clowns, jugglers and more! Featuring performances by local Twin Cities artists, including some of our very own Queer Circus cast members! For adults 21-plus. Located at 755 Prior Avenue North Suite 2000.

July 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22: Various times: Music Makers Zone, Free: Here you will have opportunities to interact with instruments from across the globe. Be blown away by an instrument called the “sham” — wandering with sounds from around the world. Get inside the beat as you clatter and clang along the Wall of Percussion. Try your hand at the keyboard instruments and learn to play! Come make music and learn how music is made. Admission to the Schubert Club Museum is always FREE! 

June 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30: Guide to the Golden Age Walking Tour, $20: Join Sister Celeste on this historic walking tour as she goes “off-campus” to explore the vast homes and singular landscapes on Summit Avenue and the Hill District’s southern edge. Meet at 418 Summit Avenue.

July 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 p.m.: Summer Sessions at Keg and Case Market, Free: Summer Sessions at Keg & Case Market is a FREE local music scene in June, July, and August every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening - featuring local music in a range of genres. Keg & Case Market is home to Clutch Brewing and many food vendors offering delectable bites that pair well with local music. Located at 928 7th St. W.

July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30: Laugh Camp Comedy Open Mic: Your perfect one stop evening for socializing, food, drinks and laughs. The open mic list will cap at approximately 20 comics performing 3-5 minute sets. Bring your friends, grab a drink or two, and take in some of the best up-and-comers and familiar faces in the Twin Cities comedy scene.

July 9, 3-8 p.m.: Rosé Fest: Rosé Fest is back in sunny downtown Saint Paul for another celebration of everyone’s favorite summer sippers. Now in its second decade as an annual rite for Minneapolis-St.Paul’s wine drinkers, Rosé Fest is back and bigger than ever. The event is expanding to accommodate more folks, more fun, and most importantly — more rosé! No matter if you’re a casual consumer, or a serious connoisseur, Rosé Fest offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to rosé all day! Located at 62 West Kellogg Boulevard

July 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31, 6-8 p.m. True Confessions Gangster Tour: St. Celeste has been in Heaven for over a century, but she graciously returns to tell the tales that both enlighten and put the fear of God in her listeners! A tour that explores the lesser-known chapter of the city’s history when America’s Most Wanted lived and died on the streets of St. Paul. Located at 26 E. Exchange Street.

Teens: Activities and programs exclusively for ages 12-18 every Tuesday evening 6:30-7:45pm. Scheduled programs include: 

July 12: Teens Know Best (TKB) where teens can read books before they are published; write reviews that go directly back to the publishers, meet others from around the city to talk about books, and enjoy free pizza!

July 19: Dangerous and Dragons: Join the epic adventure; experienced players and newbies wanted!

July 26: Teen Writers’ Guild (TWG) 

Storytime for preschool families: Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. includes singing, dancing, bubbles, and stories followed by a hidden pictures of the scavenger hunt and playtime.

The outdoor book drop is open all the time. Current hours are available online at sppl.org/locations/DB/ or call 651-793-1699.

All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Make the Dayton’s Bluff Library your summer spot with Summer Spark, the library’s summer reading and activity challenge program that includes hands-on exploration activities and free books! Find out more at sppl.org/summer/

Bonus Checks Coming For Frontline Workers

Senator Foung Hawj said that the Senate approved $500 million in long-awaited bonus checks for 667,000 Minnesota frontline workers — including thousands of workers in St. Paul — who got the state through the past two years of a deadly pandemic. The measure, which at the same time replenishes the state’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund, also passed in the House and was quickly signed by Governor Walz.

Sen. Hawj said the legislation will send $750 to Minnesotans working in health care or long-term care facilities, childcare workers, grocery store staff, and retail employees.

“I fought hard for the frontline workers because they put their health and safety on the line to get us through a deadly pandemic. A word of thank you is not enough,” said Sen. Hawj. “These bonuses reward workers who did not have the option of working from home, and their sacrifices got Minnesota through this health and economic crisis. They deserve these bonuses and have waited far too long for them.”

Sen. Hawj said that among the frontline workers eligible for bonus checks are: home care and long-term care workers, building maintenance, janitorial and security workers, school workers, food service workers, public health workers, retail workers, hotel and temporary shelter workers, ground and air transportation workers, manufacturing and vocational rehabilitation workers.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

1368 Vannehca Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106 
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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. is an independent, non-partisan, 501c3 organization. It is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Forum. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered to businesses in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Allison Land-Zalewski, Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clare Howard

Task Force to Clean Up Pig's Eye Landfill on St. Paul's East Side

Senator Foung Hawj said today that the Senate has passed his legislation to establish a task force to explore ways to accelerate the clean-up at the Pig's Eye landfill, and the measure will now be sent to Governor Walz to be signed into law.

Senator Hawj said he pushed the legislation because harmful contaminants in the landfill leak into nearby waterways, including the Mississippi River, and threaten the people and wildlife in the area. The site contains high levels of pollutants, including metals, mercury and PFAS/PFOA. The contaminants, especially PFAS, has impacted wildlife in the area and threaten all downstream communities that rely on the Mississippi River for their water supply.

"For many decades, the city and community have been hoping to get the Pig's Eye Landfill cleaned up and restored so that it can be turned into a park that can be enjoyed by citizens," said Senator Hawj. "Now, with my measure set to be signed into law, we can establish a task force made up of representatives from city, county, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders and give them the resources to make that vision a reality. I am pleased to have gotten this bill through both the House and the Senate and onto the Governor's desk."

Under Sen. Hawj's bill, the task force must begin work by October 2022 and report a final report due February 2026.

Recipe

Moroccan Spiced Sweet Potato Medley

Sage Holben

Main Dish: 4 servings
20 minutes to prepare
30 minutes to cook
Bake: 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes

Ingredients:
2 tsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 ½ tsp. ground coriander
1 ½ tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground red pepper (cayenne)
1 lb. sweet potatoes (about 2 medium size), peeled and cut into ½” pieces
1 can (14 ½ oz) stewed tomatoes
1 C bulgar (cracked wheat)
2 ½ C water

Directions:
1. In nonstick 12” skillet, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Add onion and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until tender and golden, about 8 minutes. Add garlic, coriander, cumin, salt, and ground red pepper and cook, stirring, one minute.
2. Add the potatoes, tomatoes, bulgar, and water; heat to boiling over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer until potatoes are fork tender, about 20 minutes. Stir in beans, raisins, and cilantro; heat through.

If you’d like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Kids Corner

J. Mason
Dayton’s Bluff Library Staff

Summer is a time to go outside and find nature. Did you know that Saint Paul has nearly 200 parks? Some are so small they only have enough room for a bench and others are big enough to have a lake in them! The library has so many books that can help us understand the outdoors, so we can be free to explore! For more information on Saint Paul parks visit: stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks.

Outside In written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Cindy McClure

Coqui in the City by Normar Perez
A sweet picture book about a boy who moves to the U.S. mainland from Puerto Rico. He misses his grandparents, neighbors, and pet frog, Coqui. As he and his parents begin to explore their new home, Miguel realizes that his new city might have more in common with his old home than he first thought.

Outside in is a beautifully crafted picture book about how nature is always a part of our lives. This gorgeously illustrated book encourages us to get outside and explore the beauty that is around us.

Interactive Nature Guide: Hiking and Camping the definitive guide by Jennifer Pharr Davis and Haley Blevins and illustrated by Aliki Karkoulia

The practical handbook shows how to do everything from pitching a tent to identifying animal signs, perfect for your next outdoor adventure.

PayPal: Donate Now

You got somethin’ to say? Say it here!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the Forum.

Deadline for the August issue of the Forum is July 10, 2022.

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

On June 10 there was a “school’s out” carnival at the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center grounds at 800 Conway Street from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. It was a family friendly event that featured activities for kids, including face painting, art projects, and two different large, inflated bounce houses. A group of Target workers served hot dogs and chips and handed out bottled water. There were several tables with games and information about summer events. There was a platform for music and speeches. If you want to find out about summer programming at the Rec Center, look at their Facebook page or call them at 651-793-3885.
American Indian Family Center (AIFC) – Grand Reopening

Steve Trimble

When COVID-19 began to exert its influence on our world, the AIFC, like many others, was forced to adjust the way we do business. However, they carried on their work in a virtual approach with Zoom and other ways. Still, they have adapted to the new norm by reaching out to community members in a variety of ways.

It was last week when I was able to attend an open house at the AIFC. The Center’s doors will now be open on Monday through Friday. People can also call 1-851-793-3863 for information or to make a reservation.

St. Paul and Maplewood Students Recognized on Dean’s List and Honors Lists and Graduates

St. Paul and Maplewood Students Recognized on Dean’s List and Honors Lists and Graduates

Steve Trimble

On May 31, the American Indian Family Center held their grand reopening after being closed through COVID. There was a food truck, face painting, and free books for children and door prizes.

July Events Happening in Ramsey County

July 5, 6, 3-5 p.m. or 4-6 p.m.: MakerTeen: MakerTeen is all about being creative, making new things, and using high-tech and low-tech tools to change your world. Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

July 6, 6-8 p.m.: Archery in the Park: Try your hand at the exciting and challenging sport of archery through this free event at Keller Park.

July 7, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Career Services: Stop by Ramsey County Library — Roseville to get job search assistance and career planning and more. Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

July 7, 5-30:730 p.m.: Free Open Skate at Highland Park: Sharpen your skating skills, or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open sessions are free and open to all ages and skating abilities.

July 7, 6-7:30 p.m.: Let’s Go Fishing!: Join us for free fishing opportunities for youth ages 15 and under. Participants will learn basic fishing techniques and skills.

July 8, 10:30 a.m.: Storytime in the Park: Long Lake Regional Park: Come to our parks and enjoy a story in the great outdoors.

July 10, 1-4 p.m.: Teen GSA: Please join us for a safe, welcoming place to hang out, have fun and talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

For more events going on throughout the month, visit RamseyCounty.us/calendar.

View From My Porch

Sage Holben

Hangman Tattoos, endless laughter, and “do you remember...” comments; watching beloved women of three generations working in their kitchen, making sushi and Asian noodle soup. Allie, Sage (my niece), Bobbi, Howie, and me, gathering in the great room with Hank the Tank, Lucky, and the other goats, our own little lovesheet. The impromptu, mini concerts of Sage playing banjo and Allie with her teak ukulele. Watching Howie and Sage corner a rattlesnake (one of several outed in the week I was visiting), disturbed by nearby construction. Rides up the Sierras with switchbacks and views of Provo and Salt Lake City, Missouri.

This is a synopsis of a week-long visit I enjoyed recently with my sister, Bobbi, seven years younger than I am. It had been well over 30 years since we had last seen each other. In my birth family, this is not unusual. I left home when I was 18 and was not present during much of my sisters’ (Mary, Bobbi, and Gail) most tumultuous pre-baby years. My parents worked on the unspoken premise that once you left home, you were essentially no longer part of the family. Except for Gail, no one was actually disowned, and she twice, but only temporarily.

Bobbi and I reconnected through Facebook a few years ago, sharing chapters of our lives, filling in details and small stories, learning which memories might trigger pain, and which triggered laughter and sweetness of family. I am always reminded of what my once-six-year-old neighbor Kencih said of people being complicated, and our agreed reality of always some good in bad and bad in good; that pertains to family systems as well as individuals. I think it was in the last year that we began considering an in-person visit. Bobbi was hospitalized, part of a lung removed, her granddaughter Allie hospitalized with COVID, and still experiencing breathing issues. We both felt we had covered a great deal of ground through our informal conversations and could handle a visit. Bobbi and Sage arranged for private “get-away” space for me, if needed. We shared “best ways” to work through a maze of details and tentatively started talking about making a visit. My son, Sam, surprised me with airline reservations to Sacramento. Perhaps our ages and health problems were the prompt we needed to say now or possibly never and regret it. I spent most of May in the hospital, emergency, and doctors’ offices. Bobbi’s family was living every day facing the challenges of health. Needing to say, we each admitted to some degree of nervousness.

From the moment Sage strode toward me at baggage claim, she captured my awe and pride. We last saw each other, I think, when she was a teen. Here she was, a truly beautiful woman exuding independence, emotional, and physical strength (she works in construction) and the biggest, deepest, brightest smile that captivates me. As she drove from the airport and we talked nonstop, I felt as if we had been friends forever. Her daughter, Allie, gave the same welcoming warmth, even with her busy work schedule. Over the week I met Allie’s sister Makeda and two of Makeda’s children, Mateo and Briana.

Over the course of the week we worked through any stress or tension; then shared “best ways” to work through a maze of details and conversations I think of as “grandmothering” and “grandfathering.” We do that thing we had started during each other’s childhoods and continue to do this day. Sage, Allie, and me (Sage, aka Cookie to my family) kept a surprise appointment at Hangman Tattoo. One afternoon on an outing to Placerville, aka Hungtown, the four of us, Bobbi, Sage, Allie, and me (Sage, aka Cookie to my family) kept a surprise appointment made by Allie and Sage as a gift to me, to memorialize my September 11th meal with a tattoo on my right hand. Symbolizing the many strengths of women may not be in the lore of bats, but that has become part of my bat experience. I do feel I need to say one more thing. If physical or emotional distances, have kept us apart from a family member or dear friend, or if at all possible, consider making that contact. The first step is not usually very easy, on either end. Take time to become reacquainted, share mutual “rules” or boundaries to feel respected and safe. Most importantly, listen. Listen with your heart. Listen without giving advice, without your opinion, and without defending yourself. Listen. Your turn will come to share, but you need to create a safe space first...and sometimes that space fills with so much love, your own words may be unnecessary. “I love you” may be all that is needed.

View From My Porch

Sage Holben

St. Paul and Maplewood Students Recognized on Dean’s List and Honors Lists and Graduates

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Steve Trimble

Read our paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
East Side Eating
Trimble’s Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton’s Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Casa Azul Agave
296 Larpenteur Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55117
Phone: 651-772-4500
Hours: Mondays closed
Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Facebook: Casa Azul-Agave-Mexican-Restaurant

I recently realized that I had forgotten to visit a restaurant on the far northwest edge of the East Side. So, I called and found they had made it through the COVID times, so I was soon riding up Edgerton to go to lot 296 Larpenteur, located in a strip of stores just before I-35E, could have taken the freeway, but it was near sunset and there was a lot of road work on the highways.

I entered Casa Azul Agave with my neighbor Alan who likes Mexican food, around 6 p.m. It was a smallish place with a black ceiling with lighting, exposed ducts, and utilities. There were a lot of decorations including photo-like large art of several Latinx singers and actors on the red south wall. The north wall was green and had other photos hanging with two sombreros. There were four tables that seat four or more, a large flat screen TV, and four high tables and chairs by the large west windows. There is a full liquor bar with 10 stools facing a large flat screen TV that was currently focused on football (AKA soccer), and a large gum-ball machine I have seen in other spots. The place was not very full when we arrived Friday, but it packed up a lot with some couples arriving around 7 p.m. They pushed two or three tables for a lot with some couples arriving around when we arrived Friday, but it picked up around 9 p.m. They pushed two or three tables for a lot with some couples arriving around when we arrived Friday, but it picked up around 9 p.m.

Here are some of what they label “House Specialties.” Chile Colorado with fried tortillas with tomato sauce, served with rice, and beans, served with a side of flour tortillas. Shrimp Fajitas made with zucchini, mushrooms, onions, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Veggie Quesadilla consisting of flour tortilla, sauteed mushroom, onions, bell peppers, tomatoes, and lettuce. Mxi-Burger with its homemade patty of beef or pork, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, ketchup, mustard, jalapeno, and a side of French fries. Huarache made with oval shaped fried masa (a corn dough) smothered with refried beans, your choice of meat, topped with lettuce, cheese, and sour cream.

Another group on the menu is Chicken (Pollo). One on the list is Guadalajara with grilled chicken, beef, and shrimp, onions, bell peppers, and tomatoes. It comes on a bed of rice with cheese, served with a side of flour tortillas. Then there is Taquitos Mexicanos that has four chicken taquitos with a side of cheese dip and guacamole salad. Pollo Valarta consists of chicken breast with grilled shrimp, tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, rice, and refried beans, served with a side of flour tortillas.

There are quite a few Seafood (Mariscos) offerings. Starting with Fried Mojarra served with rice, guacamole, and sour cream. Camaron Camaron is made with tilapia fillet with grilled shrimp, onions, bell peppers, tomatoes, rice, and guacamole salad. Camarones A La Diabla, as the name suggests, features a deviled shrimp cooked in a spicy sauce, rice, and guacamole salad. Traditional Cuisine is on the menu. It includes Street Tacos with choices of steak, chicken, al pastor (Pork), carnitas, and chorizo. There are also Street Tacos with Tripa and Lengua, with tripa (Intestines), and lengua (Tongue). Burrito Azteca is a burrito filled with choice of meat (Asada, pastor, chorizo, carnitas, pollo asado), onions, cilantro, beans, rice, and cheese, topped with cheese dip, served with guacamole salad. Also, they have Huevo Con Chorizo with three eggs, Mexican chorizo, rice, and beans, served with a side of flour tortillas and Menudo Soup, a traditional Mexican soup made with beef stomach in broth with red chili pepper base, with the option of Torrijas (Pancakes).

After your meal, you might want Desserts: Churros Sweet snack of fried bread dough sprinkled with sugar and cinnamon that comes with a scoop of ice cream. Another possibility is fried ice cream with a large, breaded scoop of ice cream quickly deep-fried, creating a warm, crispy shell around the still-cold ice cream. Tres Leche is a sponge cake soaked in three kinds of milk: evaporated, condensed, and heavy cream. I ordered a beef Burrito Azteca with a sauce over it and a Modelo Beer. Even though it was full and would be taking half the food home, I couldn’t resist the fried ice cream cream. I was surprised what a big help it was.

Casa Azul Agave has been open around three years. Erik and Jorge are the owners, but they were not there at the time. They were from Guadalajara in Mexico and have two other restaurants, one in Minneapolis and another in Forest Lake. Incidentally, the English translation of Casa Azul Agave is blue agave house.

Agave is a plant used in food and is used for the making of liquor. Agave tequila, is commonly called blue agave. They do have “happy hours” from 2 to 5 p.m. when domestic beers are $3.00.

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Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around $1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the word out to Dayton’s Bluff about the

Thank you for your support!

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